

Ruth 4

Full Redemption

Ruth 1

Decision and Return

We were introduced to Elimelech, his wife Naomi and their boys, Mahlon and Chilion. Things were getting tough in Bethlehem and Elimelech decides to take the family to Moab and things went from bad to worse.

Elimelech dies, the boys get married, but then another tragedy, both boys die.

Naomi, with really nothing left for herself in Moab, decides after 10 years to head back to Bethlehem. She hears that things are better there now. Her daughters-in-law, Orpah and Ruth will return with her, but she insists that they stay in Moab. Orpah decides to stay, but Ruth returns with Naomi. We find that this whole experience has made Naomi quite bitter.

She is a **glass half empty** gal.

And she says, don't call me Naomi (delightful), call me Mara (bitterness).

Naomi is blaming God for her situation.

These were choices that Elimelech and Naomi made.

Not one time are we told that they prayed to the Lord or asked for His help or counsel before deciding to leave Bethlehem.

Do we make decisions, move forward in anything without seeking the Lord? Yes

Do we blame God when it doesn't work out like WE planned? Yes.

Ruth 2

Provision and Promise

Naomi was bitter, but now, something has changed.

God has provided for her!

Ruth digs in and starts working to not only help provide for her and Naomi, but to be a part of the community.

We see here that God did not wait for Naomi to change before He worked in provision. God **is** providing and her heart is changing back to delight from bitterness.

Sometimes we get down emotionally and forget that God is on the throne.

We forget that He has a plan and He is working!

You must remember that God is ALWAYS working, even when we cannot see it.

Ruth 3

Testing and Trust

A wonderful picture of Jesus. Our Kinsman-Redeemer

1. A wonderful example of obedience and trust. Ruth
2. A wonderful example of character. Boaz
3. A wonderful picture of our lives as believers in Jesus.

Ruth and Boaz are doing it right!

Ruth 4:1-2

Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there; and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz had spoken came by. So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend, sit down here." So he came aside and sat down.

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And he took 10 men of the elders of the city, and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

The city gate was the place where official business, legal functions and transactions are made. Remember this is the time of the Judges, there is no formal government other than the cities governing themselves under the law of God.

This is where things happened.

There would have been many discussions, probably arguments and policy made at the gates of the city. The leaders and elders made decisions and the people followed.

Matthew 16:18

...and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Jesus wasn't speaking of literal gates.

Jesus was telling us that the decisions, organization and planning of the enemy will never win against the church.

So Boaz said, "Come aside, friend..."

The interesting thing here is that we know Boaz knew this guy's name but we are not told who this is. Boaz refers to him

Most versions translate these 2 words as:

- NIV, ESV and NKJV as ***friend***
- KJV says ***such a one***

The Hebrew is **peloniy almoniy**.

"peloniy-certain one, almoniy-someone"

Literally Boaz is saying, *"Hey Mr. So and So, let's have a chat"*

By God's grace, this guy is not named. The guy who chose NOT to redeem.

Boaz is bringing this transaction to a public place.

The kinsman-redeemer is prepared to let everyone know what he is about to do.

This is a good lesson of accountability.

How can accountability be helpful in your personal life?

It is very helpful in our walk with the Lord to have someone in our lives that will be there for us and hold us accountable.

In my early days as a believer, my friend Steve Miles was always calling and checking on me and I would call him when I needed help or felt like giving up.

Thru the years I have had many guys call me at all hours of the day or night. We meet for coffee, dinner to pray about the situation and seek the Lord for help and strength.

Please do not let your pride keep you from getting help.

One of the most dangerous things the enemy will do to us is to get us thinking that there is no one that could or would help us.

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Ruth 4:3-4

Then he said to the close relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the country of Moab, sold the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

And I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it back in the presence of the inhabitants and the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if you will not redeem it, then tell me, that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am next after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

Naomi is back and the land that belonged to Elimelech needs to be redeemed for her.

The relative is willing to redeem the land.

If the land was not redeemed, it would stay with the one that purchased the property for 50 years. Elimelech has obviously sold the land to someone outside of the family.

Every 50 years, Israel celebrated **The Year of Jubilee**.

All debts were forgiven, land was returned to the rightful family owner and anyone that was in slavery was set free! **Leviticus 25:8-17**

Ruth 4:5-6

Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also buy it from Ruth the Moabitess, the wife of the dead, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance."

And the close relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance. You redeem my right of redemption for yourself, for I cannot redeem it."

Boaz throws in one more thing.

When you redeem the land, you must also take Ruth as your wife.

Leviticus 25:24-25

We see that redeeming the land was a responsibility of the family member **ga'al**.

This relative could redeem the land and not have the responsibility of marrying Naomi and producing an heir to Elimelech. Why? He knows that Naomi is older (past the age of childbearing).

But Ruth is, so she is part of the deal.

I cannot redeem it for myself, lest I ruin my own inheritance...

2 things-

- the relative had grown boys that have received their inheritance.
- he was married and bringing another wife into the house might be a challenge, not to mention to responsibility to raise up another son.

So what the relative is saying? Yes, to the land and no to Ruth.

In what ways do you make decisions based on material things?

In what ways do you make decisions based on people?

Being in the business world for many years, I found that the decision process often went down **only 2** roads.

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1. Financial Road-
 - How much is this going to cost?
 - How much are we going to make?
2. People Road-
 - Who is this going to effect?
 - Who will this make look good?
 - Whose toes will this decision step on?

I am not saying that these are bad things to consider. They are not.

But the thing that our world has done by removing God, His word and biblical principles is this. The Right and Wrong Road

- What is the right thing to do?
- IS this the right thing to do?

Ruth 4:7

Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel.

Deuteronomy 25:5-10 describes the ceremony conducted when a kinsman declined his responsibility when taking the wife of his brother.

The woman being declined came to the man at the gates of the city, removed his sandal and spit in his face.

But in this case, because there was no lack of honor involved, they only did the part of the ceremony involving the sandal confirming the declining kinsman to the willing kinsman.

The Sandal Transaction

Ruth 4:8

Therefore, the close relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." So he took off his sandal.

There is an interesting dynamic about making a public commitment and being accountable. Boaz wanted to do this right, if this relative had decided to redeem the land AND Ruth, Boaz would have accepted this fate from the Lord.

But the relative was not willing.

They both made a public commitment in that the relative was publicly NOT willing to redeem the land AND Ruth.

Boaz WAS willing to redeem the land AND Ruth. A public transaction.

We must be very careful to trust the Lord, instead being led by ulterior motives and attempting to manipulate the outcome.

Are we striving to be obedient to the Lord and trust Him with our future?

Remember in chapter 1, Naomi became very bitter at her situation, blaming God. But God didn't tell them to move to Moab, Elimelech made that decision.

We must examine ourselves in this. Are you bitter? Is there something in your life that is causing bitterness? Bitterness is NOT a fruit of the spirit.

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Have you ever listened to someone that has a foul mouth?
What are they so angry about? Why are they so bitter?

Psalm 10:7

***His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and oppression;
Under his tongue is trouble and iniquity.***

Think about all that has happened here.
God's gracious love has been poured out.
It's always there and we must open our eyes and have godly perspective.

There are ways to handle the bitter situations in our lives. In fact, all situations in our lives.

1. Pray
2. Find out what God's Word has to say
3. Seek godly council.
4. Be obedient and trust the Lord

Boaz trusted the Lord.
He didn't take things into his own hands and try to manipulate the system.
Boaz took the situation to the leaders and to the closer relative.

The refusal of the relative freed Boaz who was next in line.

My opinion here, I think Boaz and Ruth were attracted to each other, but they were going to do this right and see if the Lord was in it.

So often we act on our emotions that most of the time lead us to disobedience.
Why? Because we are more concerned about what we want than what God wants.

Ruth 4:9-10

And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech's, and all that was Chilion's and Mahlon's, from the hand of Naomi.

***Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate.
You are witnesses this day."***

Boaz followed the proper process; he didn't manipulate the system to try to get his way.
He sealed the transaction publicly and legally redeeming the property of Elimelech and getting Ruth, the woman he loved.

Remember what decision Ruth made in chapter 1, ***Ruth 1:15-17***
Naomi said her best chance of marriage was to stay in Moab.
Ruth was willing to follow Naomi, and the Lord!

Ruth the Moabitess,...I have acquired as my wife

Marriage so often is the brunt of degrading and dishonoring jokes.
Did you know that God thinks that marriage is extremely important?

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Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

But today, our society has made marriage something as interchangeable as a pair of trousers.

The institution of marriage is from the Lord. Man didn't come up with it. God did! **Genesis 2**

Proverbs 18:22

He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

For you guys that have found a wife?

Honor her, love her, protect her and your relationship with her. Represent Jesus to her!

You have found favor with God!

For you men that haven't found a wife yet. Be a godly man that a godly woman would want to be married to.

For you women that are not married, NEVER lower your standards. God will bring the right man at the right time. Ruth is a great example!

You are witnesses this day

This explains why marriage ceremonies are important, and why it should be recognized by the civil authorities.

Boaz had a love for Ruth that was public, a love that he wanted to be publicly witnessed and registered.

Sometimes, people wonder why a marriage ceremony or a marriage license is important. *"Can't we just be married before God?"*

There is something severely lacking in a love that doesn't want to proclaim itself; that does not want witnesses; and that does not want the bond between a man and woman to be recognized by the civil authorities.

That love falls short of true marital love.

So, those who say *"Well, if we were on a desert island and no one was there to marry us, could we still be married before God?"* Well the answer: **Yes - on a deserted island.**

But you aren't on a deserted island.

There are witnesses and civil authorities for you to proclaim your commitment of marital love to. So do it!

Why would a person NOT want to make their love for someone public?

Ruth 4:11-12

And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the 2 who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah (ef thra fa) and be famous in Bethlehem.

"May your house be like the house of Perez, whom Tamar bore to Judah, because of the offspring which the LORD will give you from this young woman."

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Everyone is happy.....

Ephratah (ef thra fa) = place of fruitfulness

This is the place where Rachel was buried.

The LORD make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel

Rachel and Leah bore 13 children between them and their maidservants, "the mothers of the nation."

This was a huge blessing from the people in Bethlehem to Ruth (the Moabitess).

You could ask, how would this have looked if Ruth's actions and work ethic had not been as they were?

Well, there would have been a big question mark to her character and motive. Not to mention Boaz.

May your house be like the house of Perez

The people that settled Bethlehem were of the house of Perez.

Now they prayed that the family of Boaz, whose ancestors are from Perez, would become as numerous and great as the people are now.

The whole story with Judah and Tamar, and their son Perez is in ***Genesis 38***

Ruth 4:13-14

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the LORD gave her conception, and she bore a son.

Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!"

Ruth has a son!

Praise the Lord that so much has changed in society.

At this time, if a girl was born. People were sad and depressed because they didn't have a son. But when a boy was born, there was celebration because that boy would continue the family name.

Notice the women bless Naomi! She has been redeemed and her lineage will continue. She is no longer Mara, but Naomi.

Ruth 15-17

"And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than 7 sons, has borne him."

Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom (another word for her lap), and became a nurse (cared for him) to him.

Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

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for your daughter-in-law, who loves you

Ruth has not only proven herself in words but in actions as well. Taking the counsel of Naomi, trusting her counsel, and also trusting the Lord!

Jesus is represented thru the entirety of the Book of Ruth, by Boaz and the office of the kinsman-redeemer.

The kinsman-redeemer

1. had to be a family member; Jesus added humanity to His eternal deity so He could be our kinsman and save us. ***John 1:1-2***
2. had the duty of buying family members out of slavery; Jesus redeemed us from slavery to sin and death. ***Romans 6:18-22***
3. had the duty of buying back land that had been forfeited; Jesus will redeem the earth that mankind "sold" over to Satan. ***Revelation 5:1-10.***

Boaz, as kinsman-redeemer to Ruth

1. was not motivated by self-interest, but motivated by love for Ruth. Jesus' motivation for redeeming us is His great love for us. ***John 3:16-17***
2. had to have a plan to redeem Ruth unto himself. Jesus has a plan to redeem us. ***1 Corinthians 1:30***
3. took her as his bride; the people Jesus has redeemed are collectively called His bride. ***Ephesians 5:31-32***
4. provided a glorious destiny for Ruth. Jesus, as our redeemer, provides a glorious destiny for us. ***Luke 21:28***

Isaiah 54:4-8

***"Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed;
Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame;
For you will forget the shame of your youth,
And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore.
For your Maker is your husband,
The LORD of hosts is His name;
And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel;
He is called the God of the whole earth.
For the LORD has called you
Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit,
Like a youthful wife when you were refused,"
Says your God.
"For a mere moment I have forsaken you,
But with great mercies I will gather you.
With a little wrath I hid My face from you for a moment;
But with everlasting kindness I will have mercy on you,"
Says the LORD, your Redeemer.***

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To Boaz, the bride was more important than the land.
To the relative, the land was more important than the bride.

Ruth 4:18-22

***Now this is the genealogy of Perez: Perez begot Hezron;
Hezron begot Ram, and Ram begot Amminadab;
Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon;
Salmon begot Boaz, and Boaz begot Obed;
Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David.***

Ruth

Chapter 1-Decision & Return
Chapter 2-Provision & Promise
Chapter 3-Testing & Trust
Chapter 4-**Full Redemption**